# Irish rap group Kneecap defends Gaza messages amid criticism at Coachella



The Belfast Telegraph is reporting that the Irish language rap trio Kneecap have responded strongly to criticism directed at messages they displayed during their performances at the Coachella music festival. The group stated that they have been subjected to what they described as a “coordinated smear campaign” aimed at silencing their commentary on the violent conflict in Gaza. Kneecap’s reaction highlights the ongoing tensions surrounding artistic expressions and political issues on international stages.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thewrap.com/kneecap-splits-independent-artist-group-coachella-controversy/> - This article corroborates Kneecap's contentious Coachella performance, where they displayed pro-Palestine messages, and their split from their booking agency following the incident. It details the group's anti-Israel stance and its repercussions.
2. <https://www.dazeddigital.com/music/article/66681/1/kneecap-address-coachella-controversy-palestine-smear-campaign> - This piece supports Kneecap's claim of being targeted by a smear campaign due to their truth-telling and growing audience, providing context to their Coachella controversy.
3. <https://www.noahwire.com> - No specific details are available, but this is mentioned as a source discussing Kneecap's response to criticism.
4. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk> - Although not directly mentioned in the search results, this would be a likely source for Kneecap's strong reaction to criticism as reported by the Belfast Telegraph.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/apr/25/ireland-music-kneecap-coachella-palestine> - Not directly available in the search results, but could potentially provide coverage of Kneecap's performance and controversy.
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2025/04/24/news/kneecap-under-fire-for-coachella-message-3257439/> - Not directly available in the search results, but could potentially offer details about the backlash Kneecap faced for their messages during Coachella.
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/entertainment/music/kneecap-hits-back-at-smear-campaign-following-criticism-of-anti-israel-content-during-coachella-set/a2030033944.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data